

News Release

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EPA announces Fort Detrick Area B Groundwater for National Priorities List

April 8, 2009, Fort Detrick, Md. -- Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency listed Fort Detrick's last remaining restoration site, Area B Groundwater, on the National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites. The NPL is sometimes referred to as the "Superfund List."

Being placed on the NPL means that the installation will enter into a Federal Facilities Agreement with the EPA. A FFA formally details the working relationship between the installation and the EPA on matters, such as the time period to review and approve cleanup work plans.

The addition of the Area B Groundwater Site to the NPL does not imply that there is a new and/or imminent threat to health or human safety. Residents whose wells are potentially affected were provided with alternative drinking water supplies many years ago. The Army has been and continues to work closely with the EPA and the Maryland Department of the Environment to develop the work plans necessary to complete the cleanup of the Area B groundwater.

The restoration program at Fort Detrick began more than 16 years ago. To help the process, a Restoration Advisory Board was formed that included members from the community, MDE, EPA, Frederick County, and Army personnel. The RAB continues to meet regularly.

The Army has spent more than \$43 million on detailed scientific data collection and remedial actions. Cleanup efforts to date have already significantly reduced existing groundwater contamination in most of the monitoring wells at Area B.

The Army is in the process of constructing impermeable landfill caps on six former disposal sites. The caps will provide a barrier to prevent rainwater from passing through contamination and further impacting the groundwater.

With the completion of these caps later this year, 41 of 42 identified restoration sites at Fort Detrick will have been closed or have a remedy in place.

The U.S. Army and Fort Detrick are committed to protecting human health and the environment not only on post but within our neighboring communities.

Fort Detrick garrison commander, Col. Judith Robinson said, "The folks that work at Fort Detrick are the community. They live, work, play and shop in Frederick and the surrounding communities. We care about everyone, not just those behind the fence line. It is this commitment that drives the cleanup at Fort Detrick."

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